

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors, including those noted in the objection to the disclosure.

Claims 1, 10, 11 and 16-21 have been cancelled in order to reduce the issues. Applicants reserve the right to present the subject matter of these claims in a divisional patent application.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) are deemed inappropriate, at least insofar as those rejections are considered vis-a-vis the claims as now presented.

Independent Claim 2 recites, inter alia, third control information that indicates whether or not there is a capability of performing simultaneously mirroring for storing data which are written in a prescribed memory area and for storing said data to another memory area at a same time; and fourth control information that indicates whether or not there is a capability of time difference mirroring for storing data which are written in a prescribed memory area and for storing said data to another memory area after

a prescribed time has passed from data storing to said prescribed memory area.

Independent Claim 12 recites, inter alia, third control information that indicates whether or not there is a capability of storing data that are written in a prescribed memory area and storing said data to another memory area nearly at a same time; and fourth control information that indicates whether or not there is capability of storing data that are written in a prescribed memory area and storing said data to another memory area after a prescribed time has passed from said storing data to said prescribed memory area.

The prior art relied upon in the rejections does not teach and does not suggest the inventions recited in independent Claims 2 and 12.

The rejection of Claim 2 refers to "SPARE DISTRIBUTED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION in column 7, lines 62-67" of the Hirabayashi et al. reference. Hirabayashi et al. state:

There is also stored, as the spare distributed management information, the same management information as the distributed management information stored in the management information storage area of the beginning page in the management information storage area of each page as from page 2 of each block.

This disclosure does not constitute third control information that indicates whether or not there is capability of storing data ... to another memory area nearly at a same time, and does not constitute fourth control information that indicates whether or not there is a capability of storing data ... to another memory area after a prescribed time has passed from storing data to a prescribed memory area. Moreover, the secondary references relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) do not cure the deficiencies of Hirabayashi et al.

Accordingly, independent Claims 2 and 12 and the claims dependent thereon are believed to be clearly allowable. The dependent claims have been amended, where appropriate, for consistency with their base claims and for clarity.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb
Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

By: Nelson H. Shapiro
Nelson H. Shapiro
Reg. No. 17,095

March 30, 2004